

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 85-96 were submitted in the last Response to Office Action.

Claims 85-96 includes two sets of claims, claims 85-91 and claims 92-96. Claims 92-96 are previous claims 53-57, which were inadvertently canceled as being drawn to a non-elected invention. These claims, however, were not restricted from the case. Claim 86 is now deleted for lack of antecedent basis for the term nozzle boss.

With regard to claim 85, neither *Nguyen* nor *Coates* is believed to disclose the combination of junk slot with a cross sectional area greater at its top than its bottom, and inserts at the upper end of the first leg. Claim 85 is also being amended to include the limitations of previous claim 88, wherein from 150 to 360 degrees around the circumference of the rock bit proximate the rock bit's upper end is covered with inserts. This combination is not believed to be taught or suggested by either *Nguyen* nor *Coates*.

With regard to claims 92-96, neither of *Nguyen* nor *Coates* shows two portions, each at a different angle, in their "mud flow ramp".

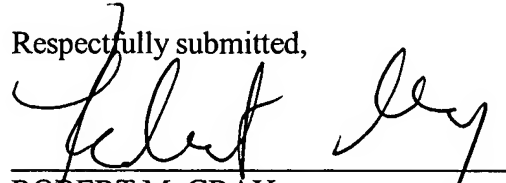
The Examiner identified surface 48 in *Nguyen*, Figure 1, as a mud flow ramp. Claim 92 is believed to be distinguished from *Nguyen* because as shown in Figure 1 of *Nguyen*, surface 48 appears to be a straight line (as measured with respect to a line perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, or the longitudinal axis for that matter). As a single straight line, it does not have two sections, each at a different angle to a line perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (as now recited in claim 92).

The Examiner identified surface 22 in *Coates*, Figure 3, as a mud flow ramp. Claim 92 is believed to be distinguished from *Coates* because as shown in Figure 1 of *Coates*, any given path from the bottom of the leg to the top of the leg along surface 22 appears to be a straight line (as measured with respect to a line perpendicular to the longitudinal axis). As a straight line, it does

not have two sections, each at a different angle to a line perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (as now recited in claim 92).

Allowance of all the pending claims, including claims 85-96, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Gray", is written over a horizontal line.

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